AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are set forth below and have been amended where noted:

What is claimed is:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for identifying relationships between business processes and technology using a protocol to form a dependency and impact hierarchy, wherein the system ~~hierarchy~~ comprises:

    <u>a.</u>   <u>a device adapted for manipulating data and programs comprising a processor with data storage;</u>

    <u>b.</u>   <u>a device adapted for inputting data and programs to the device adapted for manipulating data and programs,</u>

    <u>c.</u>   <u>a device adapted for viewing data and programs in communication with the device adapted for inputting data and programs;</u>

    <u>d.</u>   <u>a user input device for input of data and programs from a user;</u>

    <u>e.</u>   <u>a network in communication with the devices for inputting, viewing and manipulating data and programs; and</u>

    <u>f.</u>   <u>wherein the device adapted for manipulating data and programs comprises computer instructions for identifying relationships between business processes and technology using a protocol to form a dependency and impact hierarchy, and computer instructions for inputting data and forming in the data storage of the device for the manipulation of data and programs all of the following:</u>

    ~~a.~~ <u>i.</u>   a business organization object layer;

    ~~b.~~ <u>ii.</u>   a business unit object layer;

c. iii. a business process object layer;

d. iv. a mechanism object layer;

e. v. a client object layer comprising an application user interface executable on the ~~a~~ user input device;

f. vi. an input device object layer; ~~comprising a device adapted for the input, viewing, or manipulation of data and programs;~~

g. vii. a shared infrastructure services object layer indicating ~~comprising~~ a technical service;

h. viii. an application object layer; ~~comprising a member of the group consisting of software, an operating system, a program, data, and combinations thereof;~~

i. ix. a shared data storage object layer comprising a shared data storage technical infrastructure object;

j. x. a server object layer comprising a server technical infrastructure component;

k. xi. a network object layer comprising a network technical infrastructure component;

l. xii. a shared network infrastructure object layer comprising an individual network object; and

m. xiii. a security device object layer comprising a security device technical infrastructure component, wherein the object layers are arranged vertically creating vertical dependencies and the object layers are in a constant and static arrangement.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein relationships between object layers is constant and static.

5.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein each object layer is dependent on the object layer below it.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the dependency and impact hierarchy comprises of a member selected from group consisting of a business process object; a technical infrastructure component; a business process object group; a technical infrastructure component group of, and combinations thereof.

7.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the business process object is modeled above the technical infrastructure component, wherein each object layer is dependent on the object layer below it.

8.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a recursive identification of infrastructure dependencies and a documentation of technical infrastructure objects traversing down the dependency and impact hierarchy for a specific business process.

9.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a bridged common object layer consisting of a subset of object layers in the discreet dependency and impact hierarchy.

10.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the shared infrastructure services object layer is the bridged common object layer, wherein the bridged common object layer comprises a duplicate of the application object layer, the shared data storage object layer, the server object layer, the network object layer, the shared network infrastructure object layer, and the security device object layer.

11.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein shared data storage object layer is the bridged common object layer, wherein the bridged common object layer comprises a duplicate of the shared infrastructure services, the application object layer, the server

object layer, the network object layer, the shared network infrastructure object layer, and the security device object layer.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the shared network infrastructure object layer is the bridged common object layer, wherein the bridged common object layer comprises a duplicate of the network object layer and the security device object layer.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the business organization object layer is the top layer of the dependency and impact hierarchy.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the business organization object layer comprises an individual business organization object or a group of business organization objects.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the business unit object layer comprises an individual business unit object or a group of business unit objects.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the business process object layer comprises an individual business process object or a group of business process objects.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein mechanism object layer comprises an individual tool or a technology that supports a specific business process.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the technical service is selected from the group consisting of network addressing, network authentication, software distribution and combinations thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the security device object layer is the bottom layer of the dependency and impact hierarchy.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the application object layer comprises files containing commands as program files and files that do not contain commands as data files.

21.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein program files cause the computer to perform specific operations.

22.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the data files comprise a member selected from the group consisting of structured information, unstructured information, created information, accessed information, manipulated information , and combinations thereof.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the application object layer comprises up to four dependency relationships between programs files and data files.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the data file receive data from a second data file, wherein the data file receiving the data is modeled above and dependant upon the a second data file.

25.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the program file is modeled above the data file and wherein the program file reads, writes, edits, deletes, or manipulates data in the data file.

26.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the data file is modeled above the program file and wherein the program file reads, writes, edits, deletes, or manipulates the data file.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the program file is modeled above a second program file and wherein the program file calls or launches the second program file.